were brought within the purview of those rules in 1089. With a view to the development of the jaggery industry, which flourishes to a considerable extent in Neyyattinkara, the whole of that taluk has been exempted from the operation of the sweet toddy rules. These rules are now in force throughout the State, except in the Padmanabhapuram Division and in the taluks of Neyyattinkara and Shencottah. 1,13,723 proof gallons of country spirits were consumed in 1090, against 1,39,081 proof gallons in 1089, showing a decrease of 18·2 per cent. The total quantity of foreign liquor imported into the State also fell from 36,621 gallons to 29,217 gallons. These figures would have been gratifying if they indicated any improvement in temperance. The fact, however, is that the altered economic conditions brought on by the war seriously affected the purchasing power of the drinking population, particularly in the sea-board taluks, where the copra and coir industries suffered to an unprecedented extent.

15 **Opium and ganja.**—The quantity of opium and ganja issued to vend contractors was 5,120 seers and 4,361 seers, against 5,427 seers and 5,544 seers, respectively, in 1089. The price of opium remained the same, *viz.*, Bh. Rs. 40 per seer, while the price of ganja was raised from Bh. Rs. 16-4-0 to Bh. Rs. 18-12-0. The Opium Regulation, IV of 1090, came into force from the 1st Makaram 1090.

16. **Tobacco.**—In respect of this article also the total sales fell from 16,510 candies in 1089 to 15,073 candies in 1090. The fall is, again, attributed to the decreased purchasing power of the people caused by the war.

17. **Receipts and Expenditure.**—The gross revenue from "Excise", under which abkari, opium and ganja, and tobacco are included, rose from Rs. 33,16,313 to Rs. 33,85,272 and the expenditure from Rs. 2,88,801 to Rs. 3,12,305. The net revenue also rose from Rs. 30,27,512 to Rs. 30,72,967.

18. **Customs.**—Of the total duty levied, that on exports amounted to 94·5 per cent and that on imports to 5·5 per cent. The export duty fell from Rs. 12,99,547 to Rs. 10,89,676 and the import duty from Rs. 83,288 to Rs. 62,368. In the result, the total net customs revenue stood at Rs. 11,47,366, against Rs. 13,67,980 in 1089. Fishing for shanks or pearl oysters in, and their removal from, the Travancore territorial waters, were prohibited during the year. A contract has been recently given for the collection of shanks.

PROTECTION.

19. **Legislation.**—Four ordinary meetings of the Legislative Council were held in 1090, and nine Regulations passed. The question of establishing Village Panchayat Courts in pursuance of Regulation I of 1090 is under the consideration of Government. Besides the above Regulations, Regulation II of 1090 was passed direct by His Highness the Maha Raja, to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure. Regulation I of 1091 has been passed, in amendment of Regulation III of 1086, so as to make the British sovereigns and half-sovereigns legal tender in Travancore. Among the Bills before the Council, the Bill to amend the Companies Regulation, the Bill to define and amend the law of marriage and the right accruing on such marriage among the Nanjanad Marumakkattayam Vellalas, the Bill to amend the Land Conservancy Regulation, the Bill to amend the Copyright Regulation, the Glanders and Farcy Bill, the Destructive Insects and Pests Bill and the Christian Succession Bill are worthy of special mention. The report of the Select Committee on the last Bill has been received and considered by the Council. A comprehensive Bill to amend the Towns Conservancy and Improvement Regulation has been submitted for the consideration of the Government by the Additional Head Sirkar Vakil. A Committee consisting of an official President and four non-official members, two of whom are Jenmies and the remaining two Kudiyans, was appointed to enquire into the working of the Jenmi and Kudiyan Regulation, V of 1071. The Committee, after collecting evidence on the various points they have to consider, are now engaged in the preparation of their report.

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20. A vacancy will soon arise in the Legislative Council, consequent on the expiry of the term of Mr. K. Parameswaran Pillai, who was returned by the members of the Quilon Division. His Highness the Maha Raja has been pleased to command that the members of that Division will now meet under the presidency of the Dewan Peishkar, Quilon, to elect a representative, whose name will be submitted to His Highness for consideration.

21. **Police.**—On the reversion of Mr. F. S. S. George to the British service, the Madras Government kindly lent the services of Mr. C. B. Cunningham for employment as the Commissioner of Police in Travancore, and that officer assumed charge of his duties in Chingam 1091. The strength of the force stood at 1,854 at the close of 1090, giving a ratio of one policeman for every four square miles. There was a decrease of 23 in the number of policemen prosecuted as compared with 1089, while the percentage of conviction was four against six in the previous year. Although 56 policemen were prosecuted by the public, not one of those cases ended in conviction. In this connection, I cannot help repeating the observation made last year that the Magistrates are not alive to their duty in the matter of awarding compensation to the accused, in cases in which they are convinced that the complaints preferred are false. The percentages of conviction in respect of persons and of recovery in respect of property, leave considerable room for improvement. The Government are glad to observe that Mr. Cunningham has already recognised this and proposes to take steps to secure better percentages in future years.

22. **Central Prison.**—The total number of prisoners of all classes at the end of 1090 was 548, against 557 at its beginning. It is unfortunate that the number of deaths rose from 18 to 25 and of admissions into the hospital from 308 to 698, the majority of cases under both the heads being on account of diseases of the digestive system. Early steps will be taken to grapple with the root causes of this evil. The Superintendent is being deputed to study the working of the Penitentiary at Madras and the District Jail at Palamcottah.

23. **Criminal Justice.**—An additional First Class Magistrate's Court has been established as a temporary measure at Perumbavoor, with jurisdiction over the five northernmost taluks of Muvattupuzha, Todupuzha, Kunnatnad, Alangad, and Parur. The District Munsiff of Kanjirapalli was re-invested with the powers of a First Class Magistrate. To afford relief to the Tahsildars of Changanachery and Shencottah in their work, the Deputy Tahsildars of those taluks were invested with third class magisterial powers. The number of offences reported fell from 19,618 to 19,353 and the percentage of convictions from 32 to 31. The number of juveniles convicted rose from 18 to 26, of whom only 10 or 38 per cent were committed to the Reformatory. Some of the Magistrates have to be reminded of the existence of this institution in Trivandrum. The number of public servants convicted fell from 17 to 8, the percentage of conviction being 4 against 7 in 1089. The Magistrates have ample powers under the law to put down frivolous and vexatious prosecutions, and it should be their endeavour not to shrink from the free exercise of those powers.

24. **Civil Justice.**—The temporary Second Judge's Court which was working at Parur, has been recently transferred to Alleppey. The term of one year for which the Munsiff-Magistrate's Court at Devicolam was sanctioned, having expired in Edavam 1090, its continuance for another year was sanctioned. The institutions of the year showed a decrease of 2,960 cases under original suits and an increase of 550 cases under appeals.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

25. **Agriculture.**—The Department of Agriculture continued to do good work. For detailed information as to the several measures initiated by the department during the year to improve the agricultural condition of the people, I would invite your attention to Dr. Kunjen Pillai's exhaustive report, copies of which have been ordered to be placed in your hands. A paddy farm was opened at Nagercoil and it is p

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